Delhi for restoration of plot to Delhi Government, if so, what is the present position in this regard; and

(f) what was the value of the plot when it was allotted and what is its present value?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTERY OF URBAN AFFAIRS & EMPLOYMENT (SHRI P.K. THUNGON): (a) to (f) A plot of land measuring 2.762 acres at Lal Bahadur Shastri Marg, New Delhi was allotted to DTTDC in 1983 for setting up of a budget hotel at a highly concessional rate. DTTDC was not required to make payment of the premium except the annual licence fee of Rs. 14.17 lakhs per annum. The construction of the hotel was to be completed by DTTDC within 24 months.

The allotment was cancelled on 1-2-1993 due to breach of the terms and conditions of allotment and non-payment of the dues.

On representations received from DTTDC for restoration of allotment, it was revealed that DTTDC had entered into licence agreement on 24-7-92 with East India Hotels Ltd., for construction/ tenders. Keeping this in view, the project was evaluated by the Ministry and option given to DTTDC on 19-10-93 either to pay for the land at commercial rates +2.5% thereof as Ground Rent or to share licence fee on 50:50 basis, failing which the Government will take over the licence arrangement with the hotelier directly. However, despite repeated d.o. references over a period of 18 months, the response of DTTDC not being available, keeping in view the resultant loss to the public exchequer in the shape of licence fee payment by the hotelier and also considering the legal, financial and administrative problems envisaged in the event of cancellation of the allotment, the land was restored by the Govt. to the hotelier on licence basis on the same terms and conditions fixed by DTTDC earlier, and to the same party with whom DTTDC had entered into an agreement earlier.

In pursuance of the licence agreement the fee payable by the hotelier varies from Rs. 2.5 crores per annum to 30 crores per annum over a span of 33 years, resulting in total accrual of Rs. 720 crores over this period, against a reserve price of Rs. 27 crores at the predetermined land rate.

The representation from the C.M., Delhi for restoration of the plot to Delhi Government has been examined, but the allotment having been cancelled due to violation of the terms and conditions of allotment, no further action is considered necessary.

Research and Development in Pharmaceutical Industry

700. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS & FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in view of Government's commitment to protect Intellectual Rights in the country, the need for the Pharmaceutical Industry to take up R&D effort is an exceptional need; and

(b) if Government is not is a position to offer incentives to the Pharmaceutical Industry, the reasons for not considering price decontrol for those companies which have already set up R&D Centres?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS & FERTILIZERS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The existing policy provides for putting outside price control a new drug which has not been produced elsewhere. There is also provision for exempting from price control those drugs in whose case the process is developed through indigenous R&D. In addition, other incentives applicable to all industries, are also admissible to the pharmaceutical sector.

Rivers as National Assets

701. SHRI JAGMOHAN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Madras High Court has suggested that all the rivers flowing in the country should be declared as 'national rivers'/'national assets';

(b) whether in view of the acute scarcity of water in certain regions of the country, Government is considering this suggestion; and

(c) if not, why?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) The High Court of Judicature, Madras has not given any order in this regard. While dismissing the Writ Petition No. 6207 of 1983 filed by one Shri K.S. Radhakrishan against Union of India/ State Government of Tamil Nadu/State Government of Kerala and others, the Court referred to a suggestion given by the other Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu late Dr. M.G. Ramachandran in his letter dated 26.4.82 addressed to the Central Government that Government of India should declare all rivers including inter-state rivers as national rivers and bring forward a legislation to ensure proper utilisation of rivers subject to a condition that the entitlement of the States for water as decided upon by the Tribunal shall, on no account, be disturbed by such legislation. The Court observed that "in our opinion the suggestion is worth consideration by the Central Government, particularly in view of the fact that the problem remains unsettled for over two decades and the methods adopted till now have proved unsuccessful".

(b) and (c) The need for maximising availability of water in the country is already enshrined in the National Water Policy adopted in September, 1987. It states "water should be made available to water short areas by transfer from other areas including transfers from one river basin to another, based on a national perspective, after taking into account the requirements of the areas/basins". The National Water Development Agency (NWDA) is already engaged in the task for preparing water balance and feasibility studies for the Peninsular and Himalayan components of the National Perspective.

Linking of Professional Courses

702. SHRI ANANT RAM JAISWAL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of Government